

### L.A. Fire Dept. Cleanup Drive Topic of Meet

George Mercer, chairman of the Shoestring Strip Councilmanic Advisory Committee and captain of the Los Angeles Fire Dept., discussed the spring clean-up campaign of the L.A. fire department at a meeting of the Shoestring group held at Normandale Play-ground last week.

Mercer urged the group to vote for a proposed fire bond which would provide for 15 new engine houses and replacement of outmoded equipment.

Volunteers for the Fourth of July fireworks celebration were sought by Mrs. Hammatt, director of Normandale Play-ground.

The association meets the second Tuesday of each month. Residents of the strip who desire further information are asked to contact Mercer at FA 8-5956.

#### DEEP CANYON

The Grand canyon of the Snake river in Idaho is the deepest of any known on the North American continent.

### Must Meet Finance Problems Head-on, Hull Tells TEAC

Budget repercussions a year from now being pointed out by Superintendent J. H. Hull Monday as being inevitable if the Torrance Unified School District fails to collect part of the over-ride tax this year. Hull spoke at a noon luncheon meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee held at the Y.W.C.A.

He pointed out that rising costs and a proposed raise in teachers' salaries will continue to pose budget-juggling prob-

lems a year hence if the situation is not met head-on at the present time.

Hull, who is currently mulling over a proposed 9.6 million dollar school budget for the 1959-60 school year, laid part of the reason for the district's financial worries to the fact that "we get a comparatively small percentage of state aid."

"Whereas many districts get \$10,000 valuation per pupil," he explained, "Torrance only gets \$7500 valuation. On a

cash basis, this means we get \$190 per elementary child and \$125 per high school student," he stated.

BACKING up his reasoning as to why use of over-ride tax funds may prove to be a necessity this year, was Robert Piomert, Torrance Industries Tax Committee member, who called the austerity budget "over-optimistic."

Piomert claimed that the assessed valuation figure arrived at by budget officials—\$198 million—seemed somewhat high in view of the fact that industrial values have not risen as rapidly as the \$19 million dollar increase would indicate. He stated that taxes on new industry was the district's biggest hope of revenue, explaining that if the city's assessed valuation goes down its tax rate has to go up to balance the estimated school income figure.

PRECEDING the superintendent's talk on the budget, a science demonstration was given by several elementary and high school pupils.

The use of levers was visibly demonstrated when students at Hugh Dooley's fifth grade class at Fern School put a one-hundred-pound girl at one end of a balance scale they had built and Assistant Superintendent Albert Posner on the other end and, with the help of levels, estimated Posner's weight.

In another experiment by the class, two girls using pulleys defeated Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem and the Rev. Milton Sippel in a tug of war.

Participating in the experiments were Karen Boulton, Peggy Ackerman, Jackie Bethea, Pamela Fleming, Keith Wheatley, and Brian Lynn.

Functions of a terrarium, or miniature greenhouse, were explained by Donna Hattem and Mark Carpenter, Madrona School fourth graders.

Describing the transformation of the sun's energy into food and fuel for plants—photosynthesis—was Otto Ledford and Janet Rice of South High School. The reverse process of photosynthesis, which resulted in the formation of an electric fuel cell by converting carbon dioxide and water into energy, was demonstrated by Linda Jordan and Rozann Hathaway of North High School.

Torrance High School student John Bentwood acted as master of ceremonies.

**Spanish Dance Film to Be Shown Here Free**

"Flamenco" a dance film in color, will be shown at 7 and 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, under auspices of the Torrance Recreation Dept. and the L.A. County Museum, at the Arts and Crafts Center, 1511 Cravens Ave.

Admission is free and coffee will be served after both showings.

The film depicts a score of Spanish dance variations, performed against authentic Andalusian backgrounds. The performers are both professional trapeze artists and native villagers. The music includes the stirring compositions of Albeniz, Granados and Chueca.

**CITY'S GROWTH**

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